

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT IAEA VIENNA 10363 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
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QTE

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 10363

PASS IO/SCT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL BY IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MEETING OF
SENIOR POLICY MAKERS TO ADVISE AGENCY ON REPROCESSING
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AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. FOLLOWING LETTER FROM DG EKLUND WAS HAND-
DELIVERED TO ME TODAY (SALUTATION AND COMPLIMENTARY
CLOSE OMITTED):

QUTOE. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, I HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF COHERENT POLICIES IN REGARD TO REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL AND DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE. THIS CONCERN, WHICH IS SHARED BY MANY, WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE AGENDA FOR THE SALZBURG CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR POWER AND ITS FUEL CYCLE TO BE HELD IN MAY 1977, DURING WHICH SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEMS WILL BE EXAMINED.

QUOTE. INDUSTRY AND GOVERNEMENT EXPERTS, AS WELL AS CRITICS OF NUCLEAR POWER, HAVE RECOGNIZED FOR SOME TIME THAT UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS AND INDECISION IN THE REPROCESSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AREAS ARE SEVERELY RETARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OTHERWISE ACCEPTABLE AND PROMISING TECHNOLOGY. I THEREFORE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE TIMELY FOR THE AGENCY TO INFORM ITSELF BETTER OF VARIOUS NATIONAL POLICIES ON REPROCESSING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THUS ENABLE IT TO FORMULATE ADVICE ON A WORLD NUCLEAR POLICY COVERING THESE FIELDS.

QUOTE. THE SITUATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT CONFUSED. ONE MEMBER STATE IS CONSIDERING A POLICY UNDER WHICH REPROCESSING WOULD ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN AFTER A THOROUGH STUDY OF ITS IMPLICATIONS, NOT ONLY FROM THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STANDPOINT, BUT ALSO IN RELATION TO THE POLITICAL ASPECTS. THE USE OF PLUTONIUM FOR RECYCLING IN THERMAL REACTORS AND ITS USE IN BREEDERS MIGHT, UNDER SUCH A POLICY, BE VERY UNCLASSIFIED

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MUCH DELAYED. AT THE SAME TIME, A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES ADVANCED IN NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CONSIDER REPROCESSING ALMOST AS A SINE QUA NON FROM AN ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW AND IN RELATION TO THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF URANIUM RESOURCES AVAILABLE AS WELL AS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR WASTE DISPOSAL.

QUOTE. BESIDES REPROCESSING AND WASTE DISPOSAL, SOLUTIONS MUST BE FOUND TO THE PROBLEMS OF DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES, AND THE RECYCLING OF DECONTAMINATED MATERIALS.

QUOTE. I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED QUICKLY ON ANY OF THE POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT A START MUST CERTAINLY BE MADE.

QUOTE. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, I WOULD BERY
MUCH APPRECIATE THE ADVICE OF A SMALL NUMBER
OF SENIOR POLICY MAKERS ON THE MATTERS REFERRED TO.
THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY HOLDING A MEETING IN
VIENNA (FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
IAEA'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR
22-25 FEBRUARY 1977) TO WHICH I HOPE YOUR GOVERNMENT
WILL NOMINATE A PARTICIPANT. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT
THE MEETING START ON MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY IN THE
AFTERNOON WITH A WORKING DINNER AND THAT IT BE
CONCLUDED THE FOLLOWING DAY. IF A CONSENSUS CAN BE
REACHED, THE CONCLUSIONS COULD BE FORMULATED AS
ADVICE TO ME AND FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
AS AN INFORMATION PAPER.

QUOTE. THE AGENCY WILL, OF COURSE, PAY TRAVEL
COSTS (FIRST CLASS) AND THREE DAYS PER DIEM FOR
THE PARTICIPANT DESIGNATED.
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QUOTE. I ATTACH A LIST OF ADDRESSEES WHO WILL
RECIEVE THIS LETTER AS WELL AS THE TERMS OF
REFERENCE FOR THE MEETING. END QUOTE.

2. OTHER ADDRESSEES WERE ANDRE GIRAUD (FRANCE),
HOMI SETHNA (INDIA), SIR JOHN HILL (U.K.),
I. MOROKHOV (USSR), C. JULIUS HOFFMANN (FRG
RESREP), AMB. T. CARTER (CANADIAN RES REP), AMB.
Y. KATORI (JAPANESE RESREP), AMB. C. WOLLIN
(SWEDISH RESREP). SETHNA, HILL AND MOROKHOV HAVE
ALREADY AGREED TO ATTEND MEETING PERSONALLY.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUTOE. - TO REVIEW THE FULE CYCLE OPTIONS AND THE
LIKELY FUTURE POLICIES OF THE MAIN NUCLEAR
INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES IN REGARD TO THE
COMMERCIAL RE-PROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL
AND THE MANAGEMENT/DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR
WASTES.

- TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE ADVISABILITY OF
ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY, CON-
TROL OR OPERATIONAL MEASURES
REGARDING THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, HAVING
IN MIND:

- ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- ENERGY CONSERVATION ASPECTS

- PROBLEMS OF PROLIFERATION AND PHYSICAL SECURITY

- HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY

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- TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AS TO THE
BROAD LINES OF GUIDANCE THAT THE AGENCY CAN
GIVE TO ITS MEMBER STATES AT THIS TIME
CONCERNING THE FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF
COMMERCIAL REPROCESSING SERVICES AND FUTURE
TRENDS IN THIS REGARD, THE PROSPECTS FOR
AND THE MOST PROMISING APPROACHES TO A
SOLUTION OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL
PROBLEM. END QUOTE.

4. MISSION RECOMMENDS U.S. GOVERNOR, WHO WILL ATEND
BG MEETING, BE NAMED U.S. PARTICIPANT AT THIS MEETING
ALSO.

5. COPY OF LETTER WITH ATTACHMENTS POUCHED CAVANAUGH/
IO/SCT. PLEASE ADVISE. STONE
UNQTE: ROBINSON

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NNN

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